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1968/03/08

RECORD OF COMUSMACV FONECON

WITH: AMB BUNKER

1045

8 March 1968

SUBJECT: SEACOORDS Meeting, Press Conf, Today's Activities, and Meet 9 Mar

Discouraged with meeting yesterday; too timid. (super cautious approach, little imagination, no flexibility) Think need to get definite approach and will talk to you about one of these days.

Having session this afternoon with Vietnamese press. Expect questions about ARVN getting most dangerous battles, US easier ones. Need your figures on casualties.

(From begin Tet aggression to midnight 5 Feb: 2111 US KIA, 11,115 WIA, 32 MIA; FWF 108 KIA, 396 WIA; Viet 4036 KIA, 13852 WIA, 453 MIA; Enemy 50,113 KIA, 14,649 indiv weapons, 1960 CW weapons. This about 86% of total enemy casualties all of 1966.)

(These show US very much in fight, still is. Moved troops all over country to support ARVN, including further S than ever before. All of the hot spots Didn't have troops in Saigon, but moved them in close about week before Tet because suspected what up. You will recall said thought attack just before or just after Tet--didn't expect on actual day-- thought 60-40 in favor of before. As result of close in and 100% alert of US troops, 25th and 1st Div saved TSN, for example.)

(Going to II Corps and 1st Div Ch of Cmd today.) Problems with Hay? (No, been in job 13 months, normal policy change after 12. Done fine job.)

Want to see you tomorrow; anytime in PM. (1500)

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